Breakthrough answers to timeless questions

Des réponses innovantes à de grandes questions
Preparing an Alliance grant application
A presentation for Principal Investigators
# Table of contents

1. Objectives & options
2. National security guidelines for research partnerships
3. Alliance Option 1
4. Alliance Option 2
5. Best practices
6. Communicating & reporting
Objectives & options
Alliance grants enable researchers to go \textit{beyond} what would have been possible for them to accomplish using our previous programs.
Alliance grants

Program objectives

1. Alliance is now NSERC’s university research partnerships program
2. Support research in the natural sciences and engineering (NSE) led by strong, complementary, collaborative teams
3. Enable collaborations with a broader set of partner organizations (private, public, not-for-profit sectors)
4. Remove barriers and provide more flexibility in building partnerships that will effectively generate new knowledge and accelerate the application of research results for the benefit of Canadians
The two options have the same:

- objectives
- evaluation criteria
- peer review process for overall merit assessment
- academic community and the three types of partner organizations served
- requirements for the recognition of partner organizations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility Rules</th>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Option 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alliance grants eligibility rules</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance grants application process</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner organizations from all sectors are eligible and are actively involved in the project</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost-sharing ratio</td>
<td>Up to 66.7%</td>
<td>Up to 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding from NSERC per year</td>
<td>Up to $1M</td>
<td>Up to $300K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project must be driven by unmet societal needs where barriers exist</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All key organizations and societal groups must be involved to ensure significant impact on society, from consultation to implementation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project must have a clear strategy to make the results available to relevant groups, often beyond the participating partner organizations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National security guidelines for research partnerships
Alliance grants

National security guidelines for research partnerships

1. The Government of Canada introduced the Guidelines to ensure that the Canadian research ecosystem is as open as possible and as safeguarded as necessary.

2. They help integrate national security considerations into the development, evaluation, and funding of research partnerships.

3. They apply to Alliance grant applications involving one or more partner organizations from the private sector.

4. If your Alliance project involves private sector organizations, you and your post-secondary institution must complete the Risk Assessment Form and submit it as an integral part of your Alliance application.
Alliance Option 1
Alliance Option 1

Who?

University researchers

collaborating with private-sector, public sector or not-for-profit organizations

How long?

1 to 5 years

How much?

$20K to $1M per year

Funding for any given year cannot exceed the annual maximum; the amounts are not annual averages
Alliance Option 1

Partner organizations

The partner organizations involved in your Alliance project can be from the private, public or not-for-profit sector.

At least 1 must be recognized for cost sharing and make a cash contribution commensurate with applicable cost-sharing ratio.

Each must be involved in the project and contribute to its success.

At least 1 must have the ability to exploit the research results and to achieve the desired outcomes.
Alliance Option 1

Cost-sharing ratio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of partner organization(s) recognized for cost sharing</th>
<th>Type of partnership</th>
<th>Cost-sharing ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>more than 500 employees globally</td>
<td>As a sole partner organization or in partnership exclusively with other large organizations within the same sector (private, public or not-for-profit)</td>
<td>Up to 50% from NSERC (1:1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fewer than 500 employees globally</td>
<td>As a partner with other large organizations for a different sector or with small and medium-sized organizations from any sector</td>
<td>Up to 66.7% from NSERC (2:1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As a sole partner organization or in partnership with organizations of any size and from any sector</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alliance Option 1

Cost-sharing ratio

NSERC’s contribution for a given ratio is determined by the sum of cash contributions from all recognized partner organizations.
Alliance Option 1

How to apply

1. Apply at any time. There is no limit on the number of applications you can submit for Option 1
2. Fill out the proposal template
3. Complete the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnership’s Risk Assessment Form, if your application involves private sector partner organizations
4. Submit a complete application through NSERC’s online system

Proposal:
• Follow the instructions
• Keep the headings and bullets
• Do not change font or font size
• Do not change the margins
• Keep within page limit (includes the template’s heading and bullets)

Risk Assessment Form:
• Complete the risk assessment questionnaire and the risk mitigation plan (when applicable)
• Consider the risks associated with each private sector partner organization involved in your project
Alliance Option 1

Evaluation process

1. Administrative assessment

2. Merit assessment

3. Funding decision

Once NSERC receives your application, it first undertakes an administrative assessment to ensure it is complete and complies with our requirements.

If this step is not satisfactorily completed, the application will not be accepted.
Alliance Option 1

Evaluation process

1. Administrative assessment
2. Merit assessment
   I. Review mechanisms
   II. Evaluation criteria
   III. Determining the overall merit
3. Funding decision

If step 1 is satisfactorily completed, NSERC proceeds with the merit assessment of the application to determine priority of funding on a competitive basis.

Different mechanisms may be used for the merit assessment stage.
Alliance Option 1

Evaluation process

1. Administrative assessment
2. Merit assessment
   I. Review mechanisms
   II. Evaluation criteria
   III. Determining the overall merit
3. Funding decision

Risk assessment (when applicable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of project</th>
<th>Small</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Large</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average annual request</td>
<td>$20K to $30K</td>
<td>$30K to $300K</td>
<td>$300K to $1M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review mechanism *</th>
<th>NSERC File Managers</th>
<th>External reviewers **</th>
<th>Ad hoc committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* NSERC does not hold evaluation site visit for Alliance grants

** If the applicants do not hold current NSERC peer-reviewed grants
Alliance Option 1

Evaluation process

The merit assessment is based on 4 equally weighted evaluation criteria:

1. relevance and outcomes
2. partnership
3. quality of the proposal
4. training

Each evaluation criterion has multiple subcriteria for a total of 11.
Alliance Option 1

Evaluation process

1. Administrative assessment
2. Merit assessment
   I. Review mechanisms
   II. Evaluation criteria
   III. Determining the overall merit
3. Funding decision

Risk assessment (when applicable)

NSERC assigns a rating to each subcriterion or criterion using these merit indicators.
Alliance Option 1

Evaluation process

1. Administrative assessment
2. Merit assessment
3. Funding decision

If your Alliance project involves partner organizations from the private sector, NSERC will review the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships’ Risk Assessment Form provided with your application.

Risk assessment (when applicable)

When additional expertise is required, NSERC will seek advice from Canada’s national security departments and agencies, and/or from academic experts.
Alliance Option 1

Evaluation process

1. Administrative assessment
2. Merit assessment
3. Funding decision

Risk assessment (when applicable)

NSERC’s funding decision will take into consideration the merit evaluation and the assessment of potential risks for Canada’s national security, when applicable.

Priority for funding will be determined according to the established merit indicators. NSERC will select proposals for funding on a competitive basis.

Decisions stemming from the national security risk assessment will be based on the risks identified and the mitigation measures proposed.

You will be informed by NSERC as to whether you will be awarded a grant to support your research project.
Alliance Option 2
Alliance Option 2

societal impact
making connections
broad outcomes

Your proposal must meet all three specific characteristics to qualify for Option 2.
Alliance Option 2

Characteristic 1: Societal impact

• Focuses on important and unmet needs affecting society or societal groups, regionally, nationally or globally with important impact in Canada

• Removes or lowers the barriers to achieve what would otherwise not be possible in terms of:
  • building capacity to transform a sector and its practices
  • providing evidence for new policies or regulations
  • solving an issue affecting a whole business area
  • creating a new area of the economy
The project’s outcomes must reach beyond the partner organizations and near-term economic success to **impact** & benefit society.

Alliance Option 2 – Characteristic 1: Societal impact
Alliance Option 2

Characteristic 2: Making connections

• Identify the key stakeholders in the ecosystem or value-chain surrounding the problem.

• Engage all relevant stakeholders beyond the participating partner organizations in the research design and implementation who:
  
  • bring relevant societal perspectives/skill sets
  • help merge ideas, overcome barriers and find creative solutions
  • ensure the project is need-driven
  • contribute in integrating solutions with decision-makers within and across sectors
Despite limited cash contributions, partners must be strongly committed & active, and provide valuable opportunity to connect & share results with other organizations.
Alliance Option 2

Characteristic 3: Broad outcomes

• Outcomes/outputs generate benefits beyond the participating partner organizations

• Clear plan to communicate progress and results to the targeted groups:
  • results in formats accessible by all stakeholders in society
  • strategy to raise awareness of the resulting products, services or policies among potential users
Alliance Option 2

Characteristic 3: Broad outcomes

Expectations:

- **short term**: strengthening capacity, building relationships and networks
- **medium term**: uptake, use of results
- **long terms**: measurable societal impact
All stakeholders must understand and accept the principle that the management of the intellectual property generated through the project cannot become a barrier to the use of the results.

Alliance Option 2 – Characteristic 3: Broad outcomes


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>How long?</th>
<th>How much?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University researchers</td>
<td>1 to 5 years</td>
<td>&gt; $30K to $300K per year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Collaborating with private-sector, public sector or not-for-profit organizations
- Funding for any given year cannot exceed the annual maximum; the amounts are not annual averages
Alliance Option 2

Cost-sharing ratio

Partners from any sector (private, public or not-for-profit) → Up to 100% from NSERC
Alliance Option 2

Partner organizations

Same sectors and rules as Option 1

At least 1 must be recognized for cost sharing, even if no cash contributions are required

Should include organizations representing the interested societal groups and end users
Alliance Option 2

How to apply

1. Apply at any time, with limit per 12-month period:
   - 1 x application by Applicant and co-Applicant
   - No participation limit for partner organizations

2. Fill out the proposal template + Public Impact Value Proposition (PIVP)

3. Complete the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnership’s Risk Assessment Form, if your application involves private sector partner organizations

4. Submit a complete application through NSERC’s online system
Alliance Option 2

Evaluation process

1. Administrative assessment
2. PIVP selection committee
3. Peer review
4. Funding decision

Once submitted, the application undergoes an administrative assessment by NSERC staff to determine if it is complete and meets all our requirements.

If this step is satisfactorily completed, the application is submitted to the PIVP selection committee.
Alliance Option 2

Evaluation process

1. Administrative assessment
2. PIVP selection committee
3. Peer review
4. Funding decision

Risk assessment (when applicable)

The committee consists of 10 to 15 members who are selected for their broad knowledge and their multidisciplinary and multisectoral expertise and experience.

They focus on the three-page PIVP section to determine whether the project meets Option 2’s three characteristics, and if a higher financial contribution from NSERC is justified.

The committee may consult the rest of the proposal for broader context, if necessary.
Alliance Option 2

Evaluation process

1. Administrative assessment

2. PIVP selection committee
   possibility to resubmit under Option 1

3. Peer review

4. Funding decision

If the outcome of the PIVP is negative, the application will not be funded.

You may rework the proposal, including its budget, and resubmit it under Option 1 if sufficient funds can be secured from the recognized partner organizations.
Alliance Option 2

Evaluation process

1. Administrative assessment
2. PIVP selection committee
3. Peer review
4. Funding decision

If the outcome of the PIVP is positive, the application is sent to external reviewers who are experts in the proposal’s area.

The external reviewers evaluate the application using the same evaluation criteria as in Option 1.

The PIVP section of your proposal will not be shared with the external reviewers.
Alliance Option 2

Evaluation process

1. Administrative assessment
2. PIVP selection committee
3. Peer review
4. Funding decision

As in Option 1, if your Alliance project involves partner organizations from the private sector, NSERC will review the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships’ Risk Assessment Form provided with your application.

When additional expertise is required, NSERC will seek advice from Canada’s national security departments and agencies, and/or from academic experts.
As in Option 1, NSERC’s funding decision will take into consideration the merit evaluation and the assessment of potential risks for Canada’s national security, when applicable.

Priority for funding will be determined according to the established merit indicators. NSERC will select proposals for funding on a competitive basis.

Decisions stemming from the national security risk assessment will be based on the risks identified and the mitigation measures proposed.

You will be informed by NSERC as to whether you will be awarded a grant to support your research project.
as a replacement for Engage grants or Strategic Partnership grants

for a one researcher-one partner centred project

to push ideas as opposed to responding to an existing and well defined societal need (i.e., benefits to society are the driver, not an afterthought)

to reduce the financial costs of partner organizations in initiating new partnerships

to offset the cost of research where investments are available or in areas where research is intense and already heavily funded

to reduce the cost of research where the goal is to develop or improve new products or services for commercialization

Do not consider Option 2…
Consider Option 2 for projects …

- with important unmet societal need
- where societal impact is expected
- with barriers that prevent it from happening
- that have a need to reach out to participants beyond the usual comfort zone
- where a viable solution can be envisioned to significantly contribute to long-term societal benefits
- where higher NSERC support is key to enabling these advances
Before applying to Option 2

Does the project respond to the three characteristics? Was it motivated by an identified unmet societal need?

Were appropriate stakeholders consulted?

What are the goals of your partner organizations?

Have you carefully answered the five questions in the PIVP section?

Have you clearly outlined how all interested stakeholder groups in and beyond your partner organization’s network have been and will be involved to achieve optimal results and impact?

Have you justified the need for a higher level of investment of public funds? A project that would fit under Option 1 will not be accepted under Option 2.
Best practices
Best practices

Main reasons for not accepting applications

1. altering the proposal template’s format, text or margins; not keeping bullet points in the proposal template
2. not complying with NSERC presentation standards for proposal
3. exceeding the total allowed number of pages
4. not addressing each of the requests listed in the bullet points included in the proposal template under each heading
5. missing adequate demonstration that equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), with explicit practices, has been considered in the training plan
6. inadequate cost-sharing ratio
Best practices

Main reasons for not accepting applications

7. erroneous recognition of partner organizations’ cash contributions in cost-sharing calculations

8. annual requested amount below $20,000 (this minimum is not an average over the project’s duration)

9. inclusion of a letter of support rather than a Partner Organization Form

10. use of Form 100 free-form section instead of Form 100A; non-compliance with instructions for Form 100A

11. no in-kind contributions from partner organizations

12. out-of-date CCV (6 years)
Best practices

Main reasons for not accepting Option 2 applications

1. Misunderstanding the three required characteristics

2. Inability to provide a convincing Public Impact Value Proposition (PIVP)

3. Wrong approach to building the project
Best practices

Partner organizations

Choose the appropriate partner organizations that will actively contribute to the success of the project and ensure that the results will be exploited, generating positive outcomes for Canada.

Read the Role of partner organizations section on the website for more details.

Partner organization self-assessment tool

- The tool helps a potential partner organization determine if its cash contributions to an Alliance project may be recognized in cost-sharing calculations with NSERC.
- NSERC’s final decision on the recognition of a partner’s cash contribution will be made in the context of the proposed project.
Best practices

Partner organizations: Partner organization form

Must be completed by authorized contact for the partner organization

Must include the organization’s profile (1 page) and address 2 requirements:

- description of organization, including nature of its operations in Canada and how it intends to grow them by developing innovative new or improved products, services, processes or policies

- demonstration that organization has existing or planned capacity to achieve the project’s expected results (human resources, facilities and financial capabilities)

Reference to partner organization’s website is not acceptable in lieu of the profile

Refer to the instructions for more details
Best practices

Cost-sharing options

Choose the appropriate option:

- Option 1 or Option 2
- Option 2 has specific characteristics
- Choice for Option 2 must not be based on financial impact on partner organizations only

Choose the appropriate cost-sharing ratio:

- percentage depends on the partner organization’s size and sector
Best practices

Proposal template

• Keep the headings and bullets
• Do not change font or font size or margins
• Address all of the bullet points’ requests
• Keep within page limit (includes the template’s heading and bullets) – see instructions for more details

Download the Proposal template
Best practices

Proposal template: page limits

The number of suggested, maximum or additional pages always includes the NSERC template text.

* No active NSERC peer-reviewed grant: you may submit a maximum of 10 pages

** Multi-party projects: you may add up to 3 pages (under Team) strictly to provide details on project management, governance structure and university support

View this table online

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average annual request</th>
<th>Up to $30K *</th>
<th>Up to $300K</th>
<th>More than $300K</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Suggested number of pages per section</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background &amp; expected outcomes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4 **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training plan</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum total of pages</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PIVP: Option 2 only + 3 pages to the maximum above for the PIVP
Best practices

Proposal template: Background and outcomes

Describe the need for original research to address the project’s topic and the potential for generating new scientific knowledge:

- How will the topic be addressed through original research?
- What are the concepts or directions that may lead to advances in the field? What is the type and scope of the anticipated advances?
- How is the proposed project positioned relative to the state-of-the-art?
Best practices

Proposal template: Partnerships

Explain how each partner organization has been involved in the co-design of the project and how it will be actively involved in it:

- complemented by the description of in-kind contributions in the pertinent section
Best practices

Proposal template: Partnerships

Outline each partner organization’s strategy and capacity to translate the research results into practical application to achieve the desired outcomes and impacts:

• not just the strategy and capacity to participate in carrying out the project
Best practices

Proposal template: Proposal

Identify indicators and methods for monitoring progress during the project and for assessing the outcomes:

• not just how progress will be monitored (e.g., regular meetings with partners, oversight committee), but also which metrics will be measured/monitored
• during the project and after its completion
Best practices

Proposal template: Training

Describe how the project and the partnership offer opportunities for enriched training experiences:

• including the nature of planned interactions with the partners
Best practices

Proposal template: 
Training – Equity Diversity Integration (EDI)

Applicants must describe specific, **concrete practices** that will be put in place in the proposed project to ensure that EDI is intentionally and proactively supported in the training plan.

**Context**

- NSERC is committed to promoting the integration of EDI in research design and practice
- Consideration of EDI in the training plan is part of the evaluation criteria
- Explaining how EDI is considered in the training plan is mandatory
Best practices

Proposal template: Training – EDI

Describe what **specific** initiatives, measures, actions will be put in place in the project’s training plan to support EDI in the team

- **Do not** provide vague or generic statements (e.g., “in future hiring, EDI will be considered” or “the university is committed to EDI”)
- **Do not** refer to the team’s current diversity
- **Do not** refer to EDI general best practices only
- **Do not** refer to the university’s EDI policy alone
Best practices

Proposal template: Training – EDI

Resources

• NSERC’s Guide for Applicants: Considering EDI in your application

• Best Practices in EDI guide for applicants to the New Frontiers in Research Fund (including the section on Research team and environment)

• University’s EDI plan, if applicable
Best practices

Equipment requests in Alliance applications

Need must be well justified.

Equipment must be **essential** to the project’s success and not available or accessible at university or through the partner organization(s).

No set limit for budget portion that may be dedicated to equipment, but Alliance is not an infrastructure & equipment grant.

If total expected equipment cost (including the operation and maintenance) **exceeds** $400K over project’s duration:

- you should apply for an alternate source of funding such as the Canada Foundation for Innovation’s (CFI’s) [John R. Evans Leaders Fund](https://www.cfi.ca/).
- NSERC and CFI have developed a joint application and review procedures for these cases.
Best practices

Application checklist

Before submitting an application, ensure that all requirements are met and that the instructions are followed. Missing components or non-compliance with the instructions will result in the application not being accepted.

Option 1 and Option 2

General
- If this application is a new submission of a previously unsuccessful one, all issues that were identified in the preceding application have been addressed. A cover letter explaining the changes is recommended. This letter will not be shared with external reviewers.

Research topics
- The application’s research challenge is in the natural sciences or engineering (NSE).
- If the proposed research includes collaborations outside the NSE, their costs must be identified in the project budget, up to a maximum of 30% of the cost-shared project costs.

Partner organization(s)
- The application involves at least one partner organization that is recognized for cost-sharing with NSERC.
- The cash contributions by partner organizations recognized for cost-sharing with NSERC must be sufficient for the selected cost-sharing ratio (refer to Role of partner organizations and Funding your research project).
- Taking into account the partner organizations’ type and global size, the appropriate cost-sharing ratio has been selected (refer to Funding your research project), in agreement with the selected option.
- The partner organizations’ cash contributions are in Canadian dollars.
- Each partner organization participating in the application must play a role in it, regardless of whether the organization is recognized for cost-sharing with NSERC, and regardless of whether it makes cash contributions. Except for organizations whose mandate is to provide financial support to R&D, each partner organization must provide in-kind contributions, which must be well described and justified.

Download the Application checklist
Best practices

Application checklist

Alliance grants

Application checklist

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☐ Taking into account the partner organizations' type and global size, the appropriate cost-sharing ratio has been selected (refer to Funding your research project), in agreement with the selected option.

☐ The partner organizations' cash contributions are in Canadian dollars.

☐ Each partner organization participating in the application must play a role in it, regardless of whether the organization is recognized for cost-sharing with NSERC, and regardless of whether it makes cash contributions. Except for organizations whose mandate is to provide financial support to R&D, each partner organization must provide in-kind contributions, which must be well described and justified.
Best practices

Application checklist

- For each partner organization, the application includes a completed Partner organization form, including a one-page partner organization profile. Support letters are not allowed and will be removed from the application.
- For each partner organization with fewer than five full-time employees, the application includes a completed Partner organization supplemental information questionnaire, as the partner has already provided that document within the last 12 months.

Budget

- For Option 1, each annual budget requested from NSERC is not less than $20,000 and does not exceed $100,000. For Option 2, each annual budget requested from NSERC is more than $50,000 and does not exceed $300,000.

- Data contributions provided in advance by partner organizations, and recognizes standard needs, for cost-sharing calculations with NSERC, were not spent in a calendar period (three months) before the application's submission date.

- All planned expenditures are eligible (refer to the Tri-agency guide on financial administration), well described, and justified.

- In cases of a project involving multiple partner organizations and/or universities, project management costs do not exceed 10% of the total direct research costs.

Proposal

- The proposal makes use of the template presentation structure, without altering the headings, text, bullet points, margins, while complying with the NSERC Online presentation standards. In particular, all titles must be in 12-point Times New Roman, and margins must be set at a minimum of 3/4-inch (1.97 cm).

- The length of the proposal does not exceed the total page limit outlined in the instructions. This limit depends on the average amount requested from NSERC. Excess pages will be removed, and if [it's] clearly, an information addressing some or more evaluation criteria or sub-criteria being truncated. NSERC will not accept the application.

- The proposal address each of the requirements listed in the bullet points included in the proposal template under each heading. Failure to do so will result in the application being incomplete and not accepted.

- In the case of a large project, average of more than $500,000 per year requested or NSERC involving multiple partner organizations and/or universities, you may add up to three additional pages strictly for the purposes of detailing topics such as project management, governance structure, and university support. These pages must be included in the Proposal heading. If any of these additional pages are used for purposes other than those prescribed, NSERC will remove them, which will affect scores in the respective criteria or sub-criteria being truncated. NSERC will not accept the application.
Best practices

Application checklist

- The proposal includes a training plan that is principally intended for undergraduate, graduate or postdoctoral trainees.
- The proposal includes a detailed training plan describing specific practices that consider equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and that will be implemented during the project to ensure an inclusive and training environment. Written statements on barriers to the current environment in the applying area will not be considered sufficient. If the training plan is not adequately considered, NSERC will not accept the application.

National Security Guidelines for Research Partnership Risk Assessment Form

- The research partnership agreement and risk assessment plan (where applicable) are completed in the spaces where the relevant information is required. When they are not completed, the agreement will not be accepted. Failure to provide a complete risk assessment plan, including the risk mitigation plan (if applicable), will result in the application being found incomplete and not accepted.

Applicant(s) and Co-applicant(s)

- The form 1004 and the EDU for the applicant and each co-applicant are complete and up-to-date, varying with the instructions. If the EDU is incomplete or the EDU has changed during the application process, the application will be found incomplete and not accepted.

- If you provide evidence of co-applicant, the application can include biographical sketches or CVs for all persons on the key staff of the partner organization. Such biographical sketches or CVs must contain the required information and not exceed two pages each in length. Excess pages will be removed.

Option 2 only

- The applicant and the co-applicant have not submitted an Alliance option 2 application that NSERC expects to proceed to the public impact value proposition (PIVP) evaluation committee for the 2023 review.

- The PIVP section of the proposal template is complete. This will be the primary section of information for the options 2 PIVP evaluation committee, which will determine if the application meets the requirements for option 2. If it is not determined if the application meets the requirements for option 2, it will not proceed to peer review by the option 2 PIVP evaluation committee, similar to option 1. The remainder of the proposal, including the PIVP guidelines, is not considered relevant information necessary for its evaluation through peer review.
Best practices

Resources

Instructions for completing an application

Recognition and role of partner organizations

Partner organization self-assessment tool

Funding your research project (cost-sharing options)

Alliance grant application checklist

Equity, diversity and inclusion in your training plan
Best practices

Useful links

- Alliance grants website
- Alliance research topics
- Role of partner organizations
- Funding and cost-sharing
- Instructions for completing an Alliance grant application
- Alliance proposal template
- Review mechanisms and evaluation criteria
- Merit indicators
- Alliance resources
- Alliance FAQ
- Use of grant funds
- Safeguarding your research
Communicating & reporting
Communicating & reporting

Communicating
Alliance decisions

**Applicant**: individual notification of decisions through SharePoint library

**Research Grants Office**: reports through GSAP every two weeks

The terms and conditions specify that NSERC will be requesting from grantees the contact information of the students, fellows and other research trainees paid out of their Alliance grants. NSERC may contact the trainees to gather information for statistical and reporting purposes. **Note that grantees have the obligation to inform trainees in this respect.**
Communicating & reporting

Streamlined reporting

Start

Status report
every 12 months

Mid-term report
x 1

Final report
x 1

End

simplified online reports
(< 10 minutes)
simplified report for projects of 3 years or more only
due at the end of the project

nserc-crsng.gc.ca
Conclusion
Alliance grants provide you with **flexibility in building partnerships** that will effectively generate new knowledge and accelerate the application of research results for the benefit of Canadians.
Make Alliance your partnerships program to go **beyond** what would have been possible to accomplish using our previous programs, and to have an impact on the economic prosperity, environmental quality & social well-being of Canadians.
Questions?
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